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Message Text

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47
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 OES-06 /021 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:NC:TWSONANDRES
APPROVED BY ARA:NC - MR. DEVINE
CU/ARA - MISS PRICE (PHONE)
OES/APT - MR. FRY (PHONE)
---------- 116195
R 031433Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS STATE 191615

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, VE, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GOV-PRIVATE US COOPERATION IN OPTOMETRY

1. DR. WILLIAM BALDWIN, PRESIDENT OF NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY, IS ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WITH VENEZUELAN ESCUELA SUPERIOR DE OPTOMETRA DE VENEZUELA BUT NOTES, WITHOUT SPELLING OUT DETAILS, THAT COLLEGE-ESCUELA EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE HAS PROVEN AN INADEQUATE MEANS TOWARD THIS END. HE THUS ASKS IF EMBASSY CARACAS COULD CONTACT ESCUELA DIRECTOR EDUARDO A. BRICENO, APARTADO 50.612, CARACAS, ON HIS BEHALF, IN EFFORT TO SPARK QUOTE SOME MOVEMENT UNQUOTE.

2. AS BACKGROUND, BALDWIN NOTES THAT EXTREMELY FEW OPTOMETRY SCHOOLS EXIST IN DEVELOPING WORLD -- THE TWENTY FOUNDED IN PAST FIVE YEARS CONSTITUTE A BIG DEVELOPMENT. HIS COLLEGE WANTS TO DO SOMETHING HELPFUL FOR THE PROFESSION AND, IN CASE OF VENEZUELA, PROPOSES ONE OF THREE POSSI-BILITIES, AN APPROACH AKIN TO THAT USED SUCCESSFULLY WITH A NIGERIAN OPTOMETRY SCHOOL. IDEAL SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR ESCUELA TO SEND TO COLLEGE FOR A FULL YEAR A FULLY QUALIFIED FACULTY MEMBER WHO WOULD RECEIVE VERY CLOSE
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ATTENTION. THE COLLEGE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE

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FINANCING, HOWEVER. ALTERNATIVELY, THE ESCUELA COULD SEND

A BRIGHT STUDENT FOR A YEARS' TRAINING. IN THIS REGARD, COLLEGE OFFERS ONE $3500 SCHOLARSHIP ANNUALLY EITHER TO A US MINORITY MEMBER OR FOREIGNER WHO WOULD MAKE GREATEST INPUT TO COMMUNITY OR COUNTRY ON COMPLETION OF STUDIES. FAILING FIRST TWO, COLLEGE WOULD SEND A FACULTY MEMBER TO CARACAS.

3. BALDWIN BELIEVES THESE POSSIBILITIES WOULD BEST BE EXAMINED IN FACE TO FACE DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTS THAT ESCUELA CONSIDER SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE TO BOSTON FOR THIS PURPOSE. DR. BALDWIN MAY BE REACHED AT THE COLLEGE, 424 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS. 02115 (PHONE: 617 - 261-3430).

4. ACTION: IF NO OBJECTION, PLEASE PASS DR. BALDWIN'S POINTS TO BRICENO AND REPORT RESPONSE IN TELEGRAM SLUGGED FOR ARA/NC/V. KISSINGER

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